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HOUSE BILL 70

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

INTRODUCED BY

Joe Nestor Chavez

AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS; CHANGING PROVISIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF  
SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES TO DISABLED VETERANS; PROVIDING  
FOR FREE STATE PARK PASSES TO DISABLED VETERANS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 66-3-409 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
Chapter 199, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-3-409. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES--MEDAL OF HONOR  
RECIPIENTS. --

A. The [~~division~~] department shall issue  
distinctive pale blue, white and gold registration plates for  
up to two vehicles to [~~any~~] a person who has been awarded the  
medal of honor and who so requests and submits proof  
satisfactory to the [~~division~~] department that he has been

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1 awarded that medal. The plates shall each bear the  
2 inscription "Medal of Honor Recipient". No fee, including the  
3 regular registration fee applicable to the passenger motor  
4 vehicle, if any, shall be collected for the issuance of a  
5 special registration plate pursuant to this section.

6 B. No person shall falsely represent himself to be  
7 a medal of honor recipient in order to be eligible to be  
8 issued special registration plates pursuant to this section  
9 when he is in fact not such a recipient. [~~Any~~] A person who  
10 violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a  
11 petty misdemeanor. "

12 Section 2. Section 66-3-411 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
13 Chapter 99, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

14 "66-3-411. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES--PRISONERS OF WAR  
15 AND SURVIVING SPOUSES--SUBMISSION OF PROOF--PENALTY.--

16 A. The [~~division~~] department shall issue  
17 distinctive registration plates for up to two vehicles to  
18 [~~any~~] a person, or to the surviving spouse of any deceased  
19 person, who was held as a prisoner of war by an enemy of the  
20 United States during [~~any~~] an armed conflict, upon the  
21 submission by the person or surviving spouse of proof  
22 satisfactory to the [~~division~~] department that he was held as  
23 a prisoner of war by an enemy of the United States during a  
24 period of armed conflict or that he is the surviving spouse of  
25 such a person. No fee, including the regular registration fee

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1 applicable to the passenger motor vehicle, if any, shall be  
2 collected for issuance of a special registration plate  
3 pursuant to this section.

4 B. No person shall falsely represent himself to  
5 have been held as a prisoner of war or to be the surviving  
6 spouse of a prisoner of war so as to be eligible to be issued  
7 special registration plates pursuant to this section when he  
8 in fact was not held as a prisoner of war or when he in fact  
9 is not the surviving spouse of a prisoner of war.

10 C. ~~Any~~ A person who violates the provisions of  
11 Subsection B of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. "

12 Section 3. Section 66-3-412 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1979,  
13 Chapter 299, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

14 "66-3-412. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES--ONE HUNDRED  
15 PERCENT DISABLED VETERANS--SUBMISSION OF PROOF--PENALTY.--

16 A. The ~~[division]~~ department shall issue  
17 distinctive registration plates for up to two vehicles to  
18 ~~any~~ a person who is a veteran of the armed forces of the  
19 United States, as defined in Section 28-13-7 NMSA 1978, and  
20 was one hundred percent disabled while serving in the armed  
21 forces of the United States, upon the submission by the person  
22 of proof satisfactory to the ~~[division]~~ department that he was  
23 one hundred percent disabled while serving in the armed forces  
24 of the United States. No fee, including the regular  
25 registration fee applicable to the passenger motor vehicle, if

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1 any, shall be collected for issuance of a special registration  
2 plate pursuant to this section. [~~Any~~] A person eligible for a  
3 special registration plate pursuant to this section and also  
4 eligible for one or more special registration plates pursuant  
5 to Sections 66-3-406, 66-3-409 and 66-3-411 NMSA 1978 shall be  
6 issued only one special registration plate of his choice.

7 B. No person shall falsely represent himself to  
8 have been one hundred percent disabled while serving in the  
9 armed forces of the United States so as to be eligible to be  
10 issued special registration plates pursuant to this section  
11 when he in fact was not one hundred percent disabled while  
12 serving in the armed forces of the United States.

13 C. [~~Any~~] A person eligible for a special  
14 registration plate under this section shall only be eligible  
15 for one such plate.

16 D. [~~Any~~] A person who violates the provisions of  
17 Subsection B of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. "

18 Section 4. Section 66-3-415 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,  
19 Chapter 162, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

20 "66-3-415. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES FOR PEARL HARBOR  
21 SURVIVORS. --

22 A. The [~~division~~] department shall issue  
23 distinctive registration plates [~~indicating that the~~  
24 recipient] for up to two vehicles to a person who is a  
25 survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor if that person submits

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1 satisfactory proof to the [~~division~~] department indicating  
2 that the person:

3 (1) was a member of the United States armed  
4 forces on December 7, 1941;

5 (2) received an honorable discharge from the  
6 United States armed forces; and

7 (3) was on station on December 7, 1941 during  
8 the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Hawaii time at Pearl  
9 Harbor, the island of Oahu, or offshore at a distance not  
10 exceeding three miles.

11 B. The [~~division~~] department shall confirm  
12 satisfactory proof with the New Mexico chapter of the Pearl  
13 Harbor survivors association.

14 C. No fee other than the registration fee  
15 applicable to the passenger motor vehicle, if any, shall be  
16 collected for the issuance of the distinctive registration  
17 plate pursuant to this section.

18 D. The recipient of a distinctive plate issued  
19 pursuant to this section shall be issued replacement plates  
20 upon request and without charge if the plate is lost, stolen  
21 or mutilated.

22 E. [~~Any~~] A person eligible for a distinctive  
23 registration plate pursuant to this section and also eligible  
24 for one or more special or distinctive registration plates  
25 pursuant to Sections 66-3-406, 66-3-409, 66-3-411, 66-3-412

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1 and 66-3-414 NMSA 1978 shall be issued only one special or  
2 distinctive registration plate of the person's choice.

3 F. No person shall falsely represent himself to be  
4 a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor so as to be eligible  
5 to be issued distinctive plates pursuant to this section when  
6 that person in fact is not a survivor of the attack on Pearl  
7 Harbor.

8 G. ~~[Any]~~ A person who violates the provisions of  
9 Subsection F of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and  
10 shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred  
11 dollars (\$100) or more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or  
12 by imprisonment for a definite term less than one year or  
13 both. "

14 Section 5. Section 66-3-419 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990,  
15 Chapter 46, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

16 "66-3-419. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES FOR ARMED FORCES  
17 VETERANS. --

18 A. The ~~[division]~~ department shall issue  
19 distinctive registration plates ~~[indicating that the~~  
20 ~~recipient]~~ for up to two vehicles to a person who is a veteran  
21 of the armed forces of the United States, as defined in  
22 Section 28-13-7 NMSA 1978, if that person submits proof  
23 satisfactory to the ~~[division]~~ department of honorable  
24 discharge from the armed forces.

25 B. For a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00), which

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1 shall be in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration  
2 fees, any motor vehicle owner who is a veteran of the armed  
3 forces of the United States may apply for the issuance of a  
4 special registration plate as defined in Subsection A of this  
5 section. No two owners shall be issued identically lettered  
6 or numbered plates.

7 C. The fifteen-dollar (\$15.00) fee provided in  
8 Subsection B of this section shall be waived for each  
9 registration period in which a validating sticker is issued  
10 under the provisions of Section 66-3-17 NMSA 1978, in lieu of  
11 the issuance of a special armed forces veteran plate.

12 D. Each armed forces veteran may elect to receive  
13 a veteran-designation decal to be placed across the top of the  
14 plate, centered above the registration number [in lieu of the  
15 county designation decal specified in Subsection H of Section  
16 66-3-14 NMSA 1978]. Replacement or different  
17 veteran-designation decals shall be available for purchase  
18 from the [division] department at a reasonable charge to be  
19 set by the [director] secretary. The department shall furnish  
20 the following veteran-designation decals with the armed forces  
21 veteran plate to a:

- 22 (1) medal of honor recipient;
- 23 (2) silver star recipient;
- 24 (3) bronze star recipient;
- 25 (4) navy cross recipient;

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- 1 (5) distinguished service cross recipient;
- 2 (6) air force cross recipient;
- 3 (7) ex-prisoner of war;
- 4 (8) disabled veteran;
- 5 (9) purple heart veteran;
- 6 (10) atomic veteran;
- 7 (11) Pearl Harbor survivor;
- 8 (12) Navajo code talker;
- 9 (13) Vietnam veteran;
- 10 (14) Korean veteran;
- 11 (15) disabled Korean veteran;
- 12 (16) World War II veteran;
- 13 (17) World War I veteran;
- 14 (18) Grenada veteran;
- 15 (19) Panama veteran; [ and] or
- 16 (20) Desert Storm veteran.

17 E. The revenue from the special registration  
18 plates for the armed forces veterans fee imposed by Subsection  
19 B of this section shall be distributed as follows:

20 (1) seven dollars (\$7.00) of the fee  
21 collected for each registration plate shall be retained by the  
22 [~~division~~] department and is appropriated to the [~~division~~]  
23 department for the manufacture and issuance of the  
24 registration plates; and

25 (2) eight dollars (\$8.00) of the fee

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1 collected for each registration plate shall be transferred  
2 [~~under~~] pursuant to the provisions of Subsection F of this  
3 section.

4 F. There is created in the state treasury the  
5 "armed forces veterans license fund". A portion of the fee  
6 collected for each special registration plate for armed forces  
7 veterans, as provided in Subsection E of this section, shall  
8 be transferred to the state treasurer for the credit of the  
9 fund. Expenditures from the fund shall be made on vouchers  
10 issued and signed by the director of veterans' affairs upon  
11 warrants drawn by the department of finance and administration  
12 for the purpose of expanding services to rural areas of the  
13 state, including Native American communities and senior  
14 citizen centers. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance  
15 remaining at the end of any fiscal year in the armed forces  
16 veterans license fund shall not revert to the general fund."

17 Section 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. --The effective date of the  
18 provisions of this act is July 1, 1999.